

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-43 were originally filed with the application. Claims 28-43 are withdrawn from consideration, and claims 36-43 are hereby canceled. Claims 1-27 are currently under examination, and claims 1, 3-6, 10, 13-17 and 21-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). The specific grounds for rejection, and applicant's response thereto, are set out in detail below. Claims 2, 7-9, 11, 12 and 18-20 are allowable.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(E)

Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 13-17 and 21-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,361,944. Applicants traverse, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution, the claims have been amended to recite the subject matter of claim 2, which is indicated as allowable. Thus, as the rejection is believed to be overcome, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. REJOINDER

Claims 28-35 currently stand withdrawn. However, claim 28 as been amended to recite all of the limitations of claim 1, which is an allowed composition of matter claim. Because the examiner has required restriction between composition of matter and process claims, applicants are entitled to prosecute at least one method of use for the claimed compositions so long as the methods contain all the limitations of the allowed composition claims. Rejoinder and examination of claims 28-35 is hereby thus requested under §MPEP 821.04.

IV. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, and an early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned agent at (512) 536-3184 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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